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Volume 20 Issue 2 2024

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

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Madera Makes an Historic Decision



Was it the RIGHT One?

In a special City Council meeting on Valentine's Day, the City of Madera became the first Central Valley community to call for the cessation of violence in the Gaza Strip by supporting a ceasefire between the Palestinians and Israel. Was it the right call?

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Madera Makes an Historic Decision



In a special City Council meeting in Madera on the evening of Valentine's Day, the Madera City Council made history by becoming the first Central Valley town to call for a ceasefire in the violence occurring in Gaza between

Israel and the Palestinians.

The vote passed unanimously by the seven council members in attendance – Anita Evans, Cece Gallegos, Jose Rodriguez, Steve Montes, Elsa Mejia, Artemio Villegas and Mayor Santos Garcia – and very quickly, as if the outcome was a pre-determined conclusion. The special meeting had been called specifically to discuss the vote.

The vote was for a resolution that read, in part, to call on members of Congress to "... demand an immediate, permanent ceasefire; release of all hostages due to this conflict ... and the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza." The plan is to send the unanimous resolution to other city councils in the San Joaquin Valley and then on to state and federal legislators and ultimately President Biden himself.

Although hostilities between Israel and Palestinians seem to go back to biblical times, the current violence started in October of last year. On Oct. 7, the Palestinian group Hamas staged an attack on Israeli civilians and soldiers at a music festival that killed over 1,000 people and took huge numbers of hostages. Stories began to circulate that death and being taken prisoner were only part of what Hamas was doing on this day of horror, and that rape and beheadings were also part of the mix; even to infants. Israel wasted no time reacting to the attack and to date, the United Nations estimates that since Oct. 8, Israel has killed approximately 28,000 Palestinians, an amount equal to about half the population of Madera.

By Jan. 31, Reuters News Organization reported that just under 50 American cities had passed ceasefire resolutions for Gaza while another 20 had passed resolutions condemning Hamas' attack that started it all.

MCH Salvation Gets Convolutated

Just when it looks like there might be a light at the end of the tunnel to reopen Madera's vacant Community Hospital, complications seem to arise and throw a monkey wrench in the plans.

On Thursday, Feb. 8 representatives from both Adventist Health and UCSF presented a plan that together would allow them to reopen MCH. UCSF officials said they were going to enter the bidding process with Adventist Health to buy the property, getting involved in the existing bankruptcy proceedings with the hospital and then submit a bid, along with Madera County, to the bankruptcy court.

But here comes the monkey wrench: Another company is already in the process of doing the same thing.

American Advanced Management said in a statement that they were mere days away from receiving court approval to purchase the hospital. "In the seven weeks since our proposal was selected by the debtor, AAM has made substantial progress with the support of many government agencies, including the Attorney General's office," the statement said.

After closing its doors in December of 2022, the hospital sat shuttered until July of 2023 when Adventist Health entered into an agreement to manage the hospital. But by November, the deal fell apart when Adventist Health figured their resources were inadequate. With the addition of UCSF, that changed.

American Advanced Management said they are still committed to reopening the hospital and that it would welcome UCSF's support as well.

★ ★ ★ CALIFORNIA PRIMARY CANDIDATES ★ ★ ★



George Radanovich
CA Assembly District 8

As many people know, I voluntarily left Congress over a decade ago when my late wife became ill with cancer and I needed to be home for her and for our son. I returned to the private sector, working in agriculture and now have decided it's time to jump in and do what I can to save this great state from the misguided and destructive policies that have come out of Sacramento in recent years.

I strongly oppose the \$1.4 billion Measure E tax increase. Now is not the time to saddle local taxpayers with higher taxes and higher prices for gas, food and everything they buy.

Fresno State University is a state facility and it is the Legislature's responsibility to fund its repairs and needs. Let's not punish Fresno County taxpayers for Sacramento's failures.

Please see **RADANOVICH** on P. 3



David Tangipa
CA Assembly District 8

I am a San Joaquin Valley native. A proud, first-generation American and son of a veteran, I was born and raised in Sacramento and have lived my entire adult life in Fresno. I attended Fresno State and played tight end for the Bulldogs where I learned the importance of discipline, hard work, and the spirit of the Central Valley.

After earning a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Criminology, as well as a master's in Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing, I embarked on a career to help people live the American dream of owning a home.

I currently work in real estate for Modern Broker, Inc. and am the Field Representative for Fresno County Supervisor Nathan Magsig. I am passionate about serving my community and am in-

Please see **TANGIPA** on P. 3



Steve Garvey
U.S. Senate

Solving the homelessness crisis — I have made it a priority to visit homeless shelters and those still living on our streets throughout California. It's important for me to hear from both those that successfully help them, and those still struggling through the worst part of their lives. Seeing this around our beautiful state really hit home for me. We can't just offer temporary fixes; we need to dig deep and provide comprehensive care that includes mental health, addiction treatment and affordable housing. This issue is about restoring hope, dignity and humanity to our fellow Californians that are struggling on our streets. If you elect me as your Senator, I promise to start by getting a clear picture of where our homelessness funds are going. Let's find out what's working and what's not by au-

Please see **GARVEY** on P. 3

RADANOVICH cont. from P. 2

Our state once had a great Governor in George Deukmejian and one of his slogans was, “do the crime, do the time.” We need to get back to that law and order attitude that holds criminals accountable.

Let’s start by repealing Propositions 47 and 57 and AB109. These measures were

sold as being pro-public safety, but the truth is the opposite – they have made us less safe.

Gavin Newsom is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to turn San Quentin Prison into a fancy resort for convicts. Maybe we should turn it back into a prison instead.

I believe the increase in crime, drug

abuse and many other societal problems can be traced directly to the breakdown of families in America. I have a plan to bring law enforcement, the faith community, educators and health providers together to attack the problem.

California has the highest taxes, most regulations and highest use of this environmental review designed to stop development. We can get back on track by suspending CEQA for five years and decreasing taxes on job creators, giving them an incentive to stay here instead of moving to other states.

We also need to repeal AB 32 – the cap and trade bill that continues to harm California’s economy. Instead of banning fossil fuels like Gavin Newsom is trying to do,

we should embrace the technology that makes them cleaner and more efficient.

Our economy in the Valley depends on water. The state has been negligent in addressing the water needs of our people. We need to build, upgrade and repair water storage and delivery systems.

California faces a \$68 billion deficit and citizens are struggling with high medical costs, and now Gavin Newsom wants to force taxpayers to pay for sex change operations and hormone therapy for illegal immigrants. And we wonder why people in other states are laughing at us! Let’s not make California more of a magnet for illegal crossings than we already are by handing out more freebies to people who broke the law to get here.

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TANGIPA cont. from P. 2

involved with Fresno County Athletic Hall of Fame, Fresno State Bulldog Foundation and Fresno State Football Alumni.

I want common sense for California. I want to increase public safety and protect families by supporting law enforcement and passing common sense anti-crime bills. I want to fight for responsible forest management and preventing wildfires. I want to lower costs by opposing higher taxes and needless regulations.

Water. Forest Management. Public Safety. Those are three key elements of my platform. I’m running for State Assembly to fight for common sense policies for our

Central Valley and foothill communities.

In 2020, the Creek Fire burned over 800 structures, with one of those being a family home. My family and I also lived through the Carr Fire and Kincade Fire.

These California megafires should not be the norm for our foothill communities. It is time for common sense to dictate our policies. Log it, graze it, or watch it burn.

As your Assemblyman, I will also stand up against big government edicts and wasteful spending. I will fight against the degradation of local control, environmental lunacy and for affordable rural living. I have personally worked on lawsuits to protect local control and vow to take the fight straight to Sacramento.

GARVEY cont. from P. 2

diting the money that has been spent on this crisis so far. From there, we can build a plan that truly makes a difference.

It’s about effective solutions, not just throwing money at the problem.

Improving Californians’ quality of life — Improving the quality of your life is the legacy that I strive for. It’s about creating opportunities for every Californian to live a fulfilling life. From boosting our economy in these tough times, ensuring everyone has access to quality healthcare, to investing in our communities.

The cost of every aspect of our lives continues to rise, impacting every Californian, especially the people least able to afford it. We must reduce government waste and every vote I cast will be grounded in helping to improve your quality of life and drive down the cost of living. My goal is to make California a place where everyone has the chance to thrive.

Addressing crime and public safety — our safety and the security of our communities are the primary functions of government. However, our government has

been failing at this job, which I find to be woefully unacceptable. I fully back our law enforcement and believe in the power of community policing and innovative crime prevention. Safe neighborhoods are essential for a prosperous community. I’ll work toward building strong partnerships between law enforcement and communities. More training, better resources, and effective crime prevention strategies are at the top of my list.

In the U.S. Senate, I will work with law enforcement to ensure their needs are fully funded so they can effectively do the jobs we need them to do.

National security — A strong United States means a safer world. With emerging threats around the globe, it’s more important than ever for the United States to renew our commitment to our alliances and our role in global leadership. We must invest in modernizing our military and achieve peace through strength.

It’s important that we work close with our allies and be prepared for the threats of tomorrow while actively positioning our-

Please see **GARVEY** on P. 17

By Betty Van Valkenburg

California's Presidential Primary Election Day is just around the corner: March 5. In the "good ol' days," every legally registered voter could go to his or her designated polling place, which was manned by both Democrats and Republicans, receive a blank ballot, mark it in a private booth, and drop it in the secure receptacle. At the end of the day, all votes were counted and the results announced, usually soon thereafter. Easy-peasy. Absentee ballots were available for those who could not physically get to their polling location, so no voter was left out.

Hello, election *month!* There is no longer an election "day." There is an election "eternity."

For this election, ballots were mailed to eligible registered voters 29 days prior



Goodbye, Election Day

to election day. Can *anyone* who gets his or her hands on a ballot during that time, mark it – with or without the registered voter's approval – forge the voter's signature which is the only identification required, and return the ballot to be counted? Marked ballots can be mailed in by *anyone*. They can be deposited in drop boxes by *anyone*. They can be returned to a vote center by *anyone*.

Signature verification, either electronically or by a real human being, is far

Please see **TEA PARTY** on P. 14

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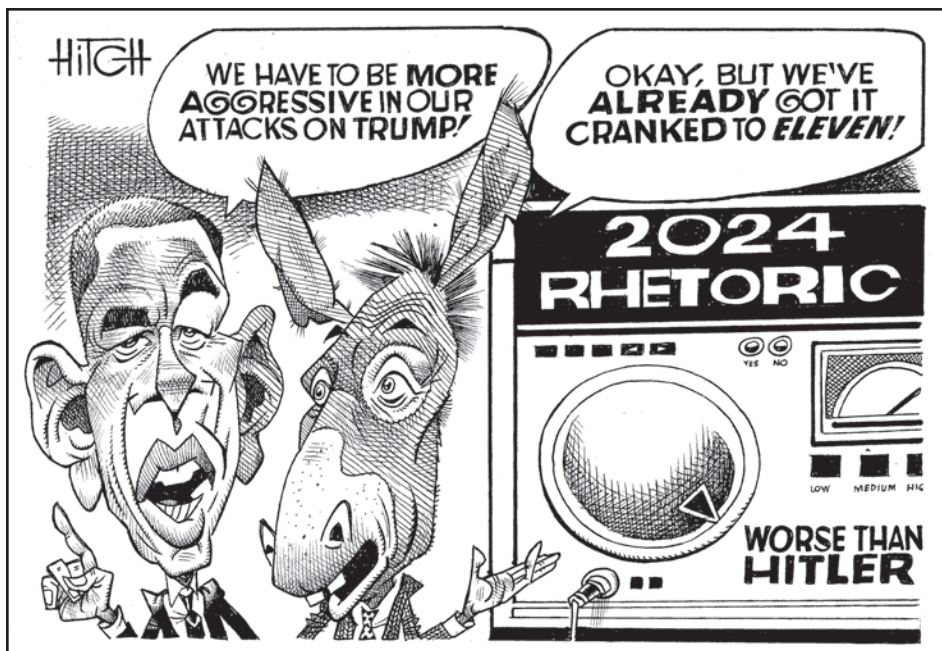
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Editorial

Welcome to the Jungle

By Randy Bailey

Another election is upon us. I don't know if it's because I'm getting older or more irascible, but it sure *seems* like they never end. And what bothers me is, at the tortoise-like speed at which government moves, if questions are raised about the procedure — which you don't *dare* ask because you'll be branded a fascist or some such drivel — nothing will get definitively resolved before the next election. Forget the "stolen election" cries; there *were* some questionable things that happened regarding electronic voting machines and mail-in ballots. I'm not saying they threw the election, but what I am saying is I don't want them to

happen again. We've got an election on our doorstep and I don't think anything has been addressed.

But something that IS staring us in the face that's not even debateable from the Left or the Right is the "Jungle Primary."

Before June 2010, California's elections were the result of a two-party primary system. If you registered as a Republican or a Democrat, there would be a primary election for you where you would get to choose between all of the

people in your party that were running for a position. The winner of your primary election would go up against the winner of the other party's primary election and you were given a choice, not only of candidates, but of ideologies in the subsequent general election months later. But for reasons that I cannot understand to this day, it's that "choice" that made California lawmakers say, "Hey! What a minute! We can't give the voters a *choice*!!!"

Prop. 14 was sponsored by Republican State Senator Abel Maldonado and

Remember: Putting an "R" after your name in politics makes you no more a Republican than putting "Buick" after your name makes you a car.

fully supported by Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Remember: Putting an "R" after your name in politics makes you no more a Republican than putting

"Buick" after your name makes you a car.

What this proposition did, with the approval of 54 percent of California's hypersomniac voters, was create a system that all candidates from both sides were thrown into one giant pot and the top two vote getters — regardless of party or ideology — were your candidates for the general election. It really didn't take a math wizard to figure out that in a state with 47 percent Democrat registration to 24 percent Republican registration, what was sure to happen.

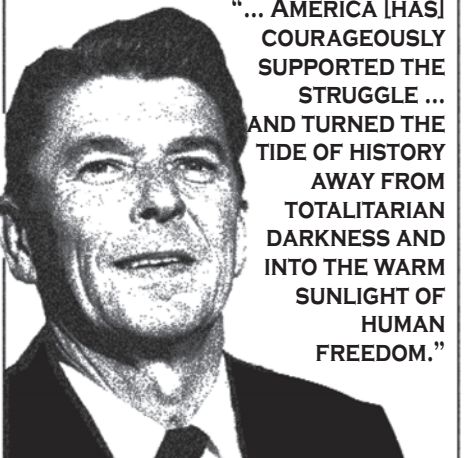
And it did. And it's going to again. In this year's election, want a choice for our U.S. Senator to replace the late Diane Feinstein? Sorry! Not today, boy!

Right now Adam Schiff, the 12-term Democrat from Burbank, leads with 28 percent of likely voters. The number two spot for the general election? A dead heat with Republican Steve Garvey and Democrats Katie Porter and Barbara Lee.

Choice!

With all of the garbage that has fallen on California over the years — and yes, a lot of it at our own hands — the Jungle Primary brought on by Prop. 14 is one of the worst. California will never be able to crawl out of its hole until we collectively drive a steak into the heart of this beast. Ever wonder why everything in this state from Governor to Dog Catcher is one party? It worked so well for the U.S.S.R. ...

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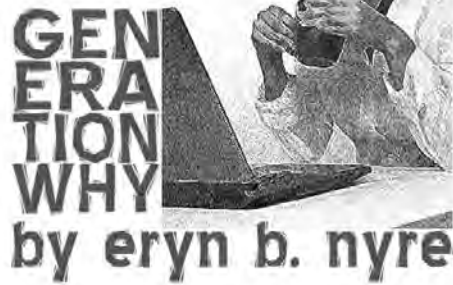
RONALD REAGAN
 SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

Senior Living You'd Want

The company I work for has a footprint across 24 states. Nestled in that footprint are various types of healthcare offerings. There is the division that sends caregivers into people's homes to help with non-medical care. We have a licensed division that allows for clinicians like nurses and physical therapists to provide in-home medical care to patients. We have many skilled nursing facilities and long-term care facilities across the country. We even have a couple of full-blown trauma hospitals in the Midwest, where you would find the headquarters of the company.

Just this last week I traveled to one of our assisted living campuses for a week of CPR classes. I've seen plenty of assisted living facilities in my day. I've had a few family members who have called such places home. This one is not like any I've seen before. It was so nice I'd move in tomorrow if I wasn't several dollars short and a couple of decades shy.

This was not just a tiny building where people are shoved into rooms three or four deep and then forgotten. This sprawling campus had a separate building for seniors who can still live alone but want to be part of a community. Another building housed those who are in need of more involved daily care. There was a memory ward for those with diseases such as dementia, and it was every bit as beautiful and welcoming as the rest of the campus. As a matter of fact, the only way I knew it was a memory ward was because of the signs, otherwise it didn't look any different than any other part of that property. All of this is in addition to the walking path through stunning grounds, an Olympic sized pool and a huge dining room that they decorated for Valentine's Day. I toured the gym, the library and the auditorium that was kept at a balmy 78 degrees and had a basket of blankets in case that was still too cold for some. Perhaps for some



with age comes an inability to stay warm, but that was definitely not the case for my mom or her mom. They would have been attending every movie night in their bathing suits, dragging along fans to stay cool.

I set up my CPR classes in the cultural arts hall, which they use for all kinds of classes from yoga to dance to painting, which also was completely decked out for Valentine's Day. From the windows to the walls, and even hanging down from the ceiling, cupid had definitely been in that room.

And if the campus alone wasn't enough to make me never want to leave, the people on the whole were quite adorable. I met a man who called me a whippersnapper. I've been called a lot of things in my day, but this was my first whippersnapper. He had poked his head in to ask me what kind of class it was and why such a young person was allowed to teach it. I told him I wasn't so young, and it gave him a little chuckle as he shuffled away.

I was on a break, sitting on a bench in the shade of a gazebo just enjoying the breeze when another gentleman sat down next to me and struck up a conversation. I introduced myself and asked his name and he told me he was named after the 32nd president. Then said he knew I was too young to guess. I grinned at him and said, "It's nice to meet you, Franklin." The smile on his face could have lit up any room. He remarked how impressed he was that I didn't even need to

Please see **GEN WHY** on P. 7

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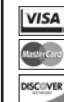
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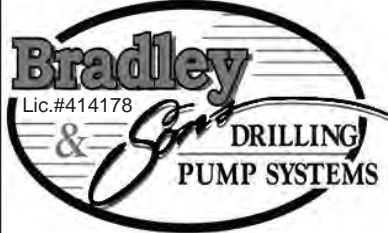
GEN WHY cont. from P. 6

pull out my “pocket computer” to look it up. I told him I had good parents and a love of U.S. history. He then proceeded to quiz me for at least another 10 minutes before I looked at my watch and realized I was late back to class.

I ran into a woman in the bathroom who was singing so loudly I heard her before I even opened the door. She was belting a gospel song and when I walked in, she looked me straight in the eye and started clapping to the beat. It felt like an invitation to sing along, so I did. When we finished our song, I asked her what had her spirit so high and she

told me that every day Jesus wakes her up is a good day, and if she has breath in her lungs she will use it to sing to Him. Her name was Judith and I only hope I can get better at finding the joy in every single day like she does.

I know that not all facilities are like this one. I know that not all stories are happy like Frank's and Judith's. I know that this is an expensive and elite facility, but it was nice to see such a well-cared-for group of people. It was heartwarming to see such happiness and dedication. Especially for a week surrounding a holiday that focuses so heavily on romantic love, it was uplifting to see other kinds of love represented in such a spectacular and meaningful way.



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Estate Sales

One of my more challenging and sad jobs was working for a client I never met. She moved out of her home suddenly for health reasons and then passed away. Her older brother, who lived out of town, was left to handle her estate. He requested that her home be cleared out, but that the contents not be sold.

Walking into her home it looked as though she had left for a shopping trip and not returned. After days handling every piece

of paper, pair of shoes, item of memorabilia, etc., I felt like I knew her. I arranged for multiple donation pickups, shredding services, trash haul away and ended with a “Free Yard Sale.”

This experience helped me understand the overwhelm that many face when a loved one passes away. “You can’t take it with you” is more than just a saying; it’s true. Sometimes it would be easier if they could take it with them.

The saying is also true when needing to drastically downsize — moving overseas, into a retirement community or convalescent care. You can’t take it all.

There is an option that is often overlooked — having an estate sale. Not all estate sale and liquidation companies operate the same, but

here’s some general information about what to expect.

Initial Contact: Realtors, estate planning attorneys, senior centers, funeral home directors and professional organizers may have referrals for estate sale companies. Schedule two or three companies to assess your project and to get a feel for who you’d prefer working.

Questions to ask: How long have you been in business? Are you bonded and insured? What are your fees? What do you do with leftover items? What is your marketing plan? Many have a following and send out e-newsletters or post photos and dates of upcoming sales on their websites and social media. Ask for references and/or visit one of their upcoming sales.

What it costs: Most estate sale companies charge 30-50 percent of the gross sales. Setting up and tagging is time intensive, requiring many man-

hours. They also have a team of people working the sale day to ensure security and efficiency for checkout. There should be no upfront cost. They collect their payment out of the proceeds of the sale.

Pricing: The estate company staff are knowledgeable about local market conditions and prices items accordingly. If it’s a two-day sale they may offer a discount on the second day.

Many have expertise in collectibles and antiques. You may also bring in a certified personal property appraiser to assess items of significant value. Contact the International Society of Appraisers, Appraisers Association of America or the American Society of Apprais-

Please see **ORGANIZE** on P. 9

A Pox on Pots and Pans

(February 2014)

Editor's Note: With the passing of Aunt Jean, I have decided to bring you a "Best Of" of her recipes over the past 10 years. Good recipes are timeless and I hope you enjoy them all over again.

This article was written before Superbowl XLVIII in 2014 between the Seahawks and Broncos.



by Jean Briner

the late 19th century into the 20th century. Tin foil was replaced by aluminum foil in 1910 in Switzerland. The first use of aluminum foil in the United States was in 1913 for wrapping Life Savers, gum and candy bars.

Foil is used in cooking other than tenting the roasting turkey during the holidays. Ever thought of folding a sheet of foil to fit the brownie baking pan? Fold a length of foil to fit the bottom of the baking pan with a few inches left over on each side. Do this both ways, and pour in the batter and bake. When the brownies are done and cooled a bit, pull up on the "cuffs" and the brownies come out and you have a pan with no baked-on crust. Or when you take something out of the oven you aren't going to serve for a while, but don't want it to cool too much, cover it with aluminum foil until ready to serve.

Short of throwing the dirty ones away and replacing them with new ones which would be extremely costly, I found the answer: Aluminum foil!

Pot Roast Wrapped in Foil
 3 T cornstarch
 4 tsp. onion powder
 3 tsp. brown sugar
 2 tsp. salt
 1 tsp. pepper

1 tsp. garlic powder
 2 onions cut into quarters
 1 lb. small red potatoes, left whole
 6 carrots cut into 3 inch pieces
 1 T soy sauce
 1 T Worcestershire sauce
 4 stalks celery, cut into 2 inch pieces
 4 pound boneless beef pot roast (chuck)
 Preheat oven to 300 degrees.
 Combine the dry ingredients in a small bowl.

Tear off a sheet of aluminum foil longer than both sides of the baking pan you are using. Place loosely in roasting pan. Place the vegetables on the foil in the pan and sprinkle with the soy sauce

Do you hate scrubbing dirty, baked on gook in pots and pans as much as I do? You can't (or shouldn't) put them in the dishwasher so there is no other alternative but to wash and dry them by hand. I hate it so badly I've often said I wish I had a larger freezer so I could buy frozen dinners to avoid the pots and pans. I guess I began that attitude early in my life. When my sisters and I were old enough to wash the dishes after each meal, we had to clear off the table and do the dishes. Every time we got the opportunity, we would leave a sticky pot in the sink to "soak" until it was easier to wash. Well, I guess we had tried that trick once too often for my mom. We had finished the dishes with a pan soaking in the sink and we went to bed. We had just gotten into bed thinking we were safe when – you guessed it, here comes mama – we got up immediately and finished our job.

Didn't try that trick again for a while.

Short of throwing the dirty ones away and replacing them with new ones which would be extremely costly, I found the answer: Aluminum foil! Don't get me wrong, I still love to cook and I know the consequences of cooking with pots and pans, but I do look for things to make the job of cleaning up easier.

Foil made from a thin leaf of tin was sold commercially from

and Worcestershire sauce. If you can, pull the roast apart and coat with the dry mix, making sure to get as much on the meat as possible. Place the meat on the vegetables and pull the two end pieces of foil together and fold together to seal, then pull the two side pieces of foil together and seal. Depending on the size of the roast, you may have to use another piece of foil. Make sure there are no openings in the package.

Tin foil was replaced by aluminum foil in 1910 in Switzerland.

Place in the oven and cook for 3½ to 4½ hours until the roast is fork tender. The juices can be used as is, or heated in a small pan with some cornstarch for gravy.

Need a quick appetizer? This one will dirty a bowl and pan, but if you line the baking pan with foil shouldn't be too hard to clean up.

Sweet & Sour Meatballs

1 jar sweet & sour sauce
 1 tsp. garlic salt
 ½ tsp. to 1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes (to taste)
 2 pounds frozen meatballs
 1 medium red bell pepper – cubed
 1 20oz. can pineapple chunks, drained

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Line a 15x10x1 inch baking pan with aluminum foil – set aside. In

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 9

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RECIPES cont. from P. 8

a large bowl combine the sweet & sour sauce, garlic salt and red pepper flakes. Add the meatballs, cubed bell pepper and drained pineapple.

Stir to coat evenly. Pour into foil lined pan, making sure meatballs are in a single layer.

Bake 25 minutes or until the meatballs are hot. Stir a couple of times during the baking, spooning

sauce on meatballs. Serve warm.

A few weeks ago, Jay Varney and his wife Amy were in the office talking to Randy about advertising. Jay is the present Chief of Police in Chowchilla (my home town) and is running for the Sheriff of Madera County. As they were leaving, Mrs. Varney commented on this column and I invited her to send me one of her recipes and in a few days the following recipe arrived.

Black Bean and Chicken Chili

4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts cut into 1 inch pieces.

2 medium red pepper, chopped

½ medium onion, chopped

4 cloves garlic, minced

3 T olive oil

¼ C chili powder

2 tsp. ground cumin

1 tsp. ground coriander

2 15oz. cans black beans, rinsed and drained

1 28 oz. can diced tomatoes NOT drained

1 C water

Sauté chicken, red peppers, onion and garlic in oil until chicken is done. Add chili powder, cumin, coriander and cook for 3 minutes. Stir in beans,

tomatoes with their liquid and water. Bring to boil, lower heat to simmer and simmer for 15 minutes uncovered. Serves 8 or 10.

Thank you Amy – sounds delicious.

After the Varneys left I was talking to Randy about inviting all the candidates to send their favorite or family favorite recipe. Invitations have been sent and those received will be printed in the next two columns. Should be fun.

Don't forget the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Crab Feed – Friday, March 1 (2024) at the Dante Club in Fresno. Tickets are \$75 each or a table of 10 is only \$700. Tickets are still available from any Chamber member or at the Chamber of Commerce office.

ORGANIZE cont. from P. 7

ers for qualified appraisers.

What to remove: Before the sale remove any medical/financial records (for shredding), photos and sentimental items that you want to keep. In most situations companies will tell you to leave everything else and let them decide what's sellable. Believe it or not, even half-used cleaners under the sink often sell.

What happens to the leftovers: Companies vary on what services are included in the percentage they take, but whether it's included or an extra charge, most offer clean up and haul away services so that the house is empty and ready to sell. Some contract with charities that pick up usable items.

Don't show up: Part of the reason for hiring a company to do the sale is to not

have to watch strangers go through the belongings and walk away with them.

Remember: The items you're selling completed their mission with you, or your loved one, and they can now benefit someone else. As an occasional estate sale shopper, I appreciate the opportunity to treasure something that was previously treasured or provide something needed like a dinnerware set for my daughter when she got her first apartment.

Letting go is difficult but necessary. An estate sale company simplifies the process.

Contact Organized by Choice at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, call 559-871-3314 or email info@organizedbychoice.com. You can visit www.organizedbychoice.com when you go online.

Senior Report

St. Paddy's Day and the Luck 'O the Irish at the Senior Center

By Melanie Williams

March "madness" is happening at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. Our calendar is filled with a whirlwind of activities for seniors this month.

The Luck of the Irish Potluck is on Thursday, Mar. 14 at 5 p.m. If anyone is brave enough to experience a proper Irish potluck, then Shepherd's Pie or Irish Stew could be on the menu. No guarantee though, it's a potluck.

It's also Game Night at our Luck of the Irish Potluck, so bring your favorite card or table game on Thursday, Mar. 14. Seniors, please bring a dish that serves six to eight people and your own place setting to the potluck.

Everyone will want to wear something green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Cheers to St. Paddy's Day or "Slainte" if you speak Irish, Scottish or Gaelic.

We are looking forward to another great Monthly Sale on Saturday, Mar. 2 from 8 a.m. to noon. We have many wonderful community donations coming into the Treasure House, Boutique and Scout Garden. Many thanks to our local Ranchos community for their generosity in giving to the Senior Center. If you are planning to do spring cleaning soon and wish to donate some "treasures" to the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, we are open every weekday to take donations from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., excluding holidays. The Scout Garden is willing to accept donations of potted plants with a healthy root system or plant cuttings from your garden this spring. Please call the Senior Center at 559-645-4864 before you harvest plants and talk to Diane Maxfield. She is at the Senior Center on Tuesday mornings and can answer any questions about how to preserve plants before transporting them to the Senior Center.

The Fresno Wildlife Adventure Association is coming to the Senior Center on Saturday, Mar. 23 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Their rescue efforts focus on the rehabilitation of injured birds and other small mammals with the intent of releasing them back into their natural habitat. This is a great opportunity to come and learn more about the Fresno Wildlife Adventure volunteers and what they do to rehabilitate injured wildlife in the San Joaquin Valley area.

The Golden Valley Baptist Church is hosting its Spring Festival on Saturday, Mar. 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is a community event with vendor booths, a free BBQ lunch and an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids.

The Senior Center is celebrating our March Birthday and Anniversary Luncheon on Saturday, Mar. 16 at the Phoenician Gardens in Fresno at 11:30 a.m. Please call the Senior Center by Thursday, March 14 to reserve a spot at 559-645-4864.

The Art Groove Gallery in River Park is continuing to sponsor many senior activities in 2024. If you are interested in paint classes, bingo or a jewelry making class, call the Senior Center for more information. Our volunteers at the front desk would be happy to let you know dates and times for all the great events happening at the Senior Center.

Happy St. Patrick's Day on Sunday, Mar. 17.

We hope you have a blessed Easter Sunday with family and friends, from the members of the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center.

Thought for March: "The great gift of Easter is hope." – Basil C. Hume



The Ranchos area high-rollers come out to Game Night at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive in the Madera Ranchos. On this night, from left, were Carrie Bennett, Jan Williams, Ernie McGarity, Ethel Hansen and Connie Prince.

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Golden Oak 4-H

By Sarah Morgan

On Saturday, Feb. 17, Madera County 4-H members had the opportunity to participate in the first Model Horse Show hosted in the County. This event was made possible by a young Golden Oak 4-H member, Wyatt Morgan. Wyatt has been working on planning this event, with the help of others in his club and others in the County, for almost a year. This event was his Emerald Star project, the highest star rank offered to a 4-H member.

The Emerald Star application process began in April, 2023 when Wyatt submitted his proposal for this project to a judging panel representing Madera County 4-H. Wyatt also had to interview to discuss his project further. Once his project was approved, he began researching all of the elements needed to put on a show. He was able to get hold of several experienced individuals familiar with putting on a model horse show to help guide the way. Every aspect of the show had to be planned, including selecting a date and venue that worked for the County, finding awards, planning the day and including other fun events.



Members of the Madera County 4-H who participated in the Model Horse Show conceived by Golden Oak 4-H Member, Wyatt Morgan, center.

4-H Happenings
4-H Happenings
4-H Happenings
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4-H Happenings



On the day of the event, six members representing four County clubs with over 30 entries helped bring the event to life. The venue, the Madera Technical Exploration Center, or MadTec, was gracious enough to allow the County use of facilities for the event. All of

the members had a great time, and everyone took home some awesome awards. When asked what his favorite part of putting on the model horse show, Wyatt said, "Just being there with the other members, putting on an event that people enjoyed and an event that made people happy."

To complete the process of earning his Emerald Star, Wyatt will need to complete an exit interview to discuss how this year has gone and how the project went. We wish Wyatt the best of luck on completing his project.

Sierra Shadows 4-H

By Mikayla Carr

Bonjour! Last month the Sierra Shadows 4-H was the host of Favorite Foods Day. Favorite Foods Day is an event that includes all the 4-H Clubs of Madera. They come together to share their baked goods and special foods to be judged. Congratulations are in order to all of the members from Sierra Shadows 4-H who participated and won awards.

Highlighting this month's article are our Sierra Shadows hostesses, Abigail and Emily Rosier. Emily Rosier said she became an officer so she could help others. Abigail said she became an officer so she could help guide people. Emily is in the projects, arts and crafts, public speaking and rabbits. Abigail is in the projects, rabbits, public speaking, outdoor adventure, floral and archery. They both say their job as hostess is fun. Their job as hostess is to pass out tickets to members who bring their 4-H folder, lead the raffle



Sierra Shadows 4-H Member Tatum Drake, left, adds powdered sugar to fresh beignets while mini members watch during the 4-H Culinary meeting.

Please see 4-H on P. 15

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Call the Chamber for more information. 645-4001

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1. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce carries the reputation of being a leader of business integrity in the Ranchos and my affiliation lends my business credibility.
2. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is a close-knit organization in which members support each other's businesses.
3. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce requires financial support in order to perform its job of increasing the economic prosperity of the Ranchos.
4. Because the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce unifies the public spirit of the Ranchos and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.
5. Because I feel a sense of personal obligation to improve the quality of life where I live.

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, this time on the first Wednesday of the month. Join us on March 13 at 6 p.m. at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C. Come give your input on the future of the Ranchos. Call us at 645-4001.

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SEMCU speaks

By Dov Adler

Flatlanders Parade Charity Yard Sale Booth

On May 18, the Southeast Madera County United group will host a Charity "Yard Sale" Booth at the Flatlanders Day Parade's Fair. This event aims to give back to the community in three meaningful ways, beginning with sharing all the Charity Yard Sale proceeds.

One third of the proceeds will go to supporting local institutions, such as our local schools. Education is the cornerstone of community development and SEMCU recognizes the importance of investing in our students' future and our kids' wellbeing.

Next would be the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. SEMCU's commitment extends to our seniors and by contributing to the Senior Center, we ensure that

our elderly community members have access to essential services, companionship and activities.

Finally, U.S. Veterans in Southeast Madera would be honored with the remaining third of the proceeds. Our Veterans are a priority and SEMCU will allocate funds to support veterans in our area, recognizing their sacrifices, service and needs.

The second meaningful way this event will help SEMCU help out local residents is in Tax Savings for them. SEMCU's non-profit status allows SEMCU to save local residents money on their taxes. When clothes, equipment or other items are donated to the "Yard Sale," residents are not only decluttering their homes but also contributing to a worthy cause. All donations translate into tax deductions, benefiting both the residents and the community. Remember: "No item is too small or too big."



The third meaningful way that this event will allow SEMCU to give back to the community is by giving the opportunity to clear out clutter. The Yard Sale provides an excellent opportunity for residents to de-clutter their homes, whether they're items from your backyard, garage, or closets, SEMCU encourages everyone to participate. Unwanted belongings can find new homes while supporting community initiatives.

How can you contribute? Donations can be dropped off at Verlaine's Place at 37101 Ave. 12. You'll receive a receipt for the fair value of your donation to file with your taxes for the tax deduction and you'll also receive a raffle ticket for a drawing which will be held at the end of the Yard Sale. Your contributions will directly impact our community.

To arrange for a pickup, call SEMCU at 559-363-9095 and someone

will come and get your items for the event.

SEMCU's dedication to the community extends beyond this Yard Sale. For example, one of our recent donations was to the Ranchos Library. We donated all necessary equipment so the library's meeting room could be turned into a virtual meeting room as well as a regular meeting room. Everyone now may call the library and book a time so they may hold a private or a public virtual meeting there at 37398 Berkshire Dr.

Join SEMCU in making a difference. We invite new members to help and actively participate as Board Members in our community initiatives. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community. SEMCU meets at 6 p.m. on every third Tuesday of the month for one hour at the Ranchos Library at 37398 Berkshire Dr. in the Ranchos. Or you can attend virtually by going online to www.semcu.org for the link and simple instructions. You can also call 669-900-6833 then enter ID# 83632424343 followed with the access code 854221.

*SEMCU is "By the Community,
For the Community"*

The Bookshelf

Check Out Seed Library at Madera Ranchos Library

By Jerrica Edmundson

It's been a rainy few weeks, but we are staying dry and comfortable at the Ranchos Library, getting ready for the upcoming spring and summer seasons. With spring just around the corner, be sure to check out our local Seed Library which is available for anyone looking to grow something or even to learn how growing works with little ones. Our seeds are free for all, and all we ask in return is if you can retrieve seeds from your eventual harvest — to share a few with us. Just be sure to put them in a paper envelope or folded sheet of paper as plastic bags will harbor moisture and can lead to problems with molding. We are working toward a locally centered offering of seeds to help people with alternative food sources and new and exciting ways to learn how growing plants works.

We are amping up for Summer Reading and the lineup is turning into an impressive one. I am very excited to be able to facilitate these opportunities for our local kids to learn and experience



new things — and this year's Summer Reading is turning out to be perfect for that. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates as they are available, as schedules will be posted as soon as possible.

First Five of Madera County has been partnering up with us to provide two recurring programs that are available for children up to five years old: Raising a Reader and a monthly guided playgroup. The Raising a Reader program is a 12-week arrangement where each week you pick up an age-appropriate red bag of four books, swapping each week as we go. This is designed to endorse a lifelong relationship with

reading, creating an easily accessible and readily available choice of books to start a habit of reading early in life. This program launched on Feb. 19, but is an ongoing program so stop in if you're interested. The second program First Five offers through the library is a guided playgroup where kids are invited to play and learn with crafts, music and story time provided by First Five. For registration into the playgroup, call First Five of Madera County at 559-661-5155 as registration is required to attend the playgroup.

As always, if there is something you would like to do in partnership with the library or think we would be able to offer, let us know. We are always looking for new and more effective ways to help the community with what we are able to offer.

The Madera Ranchos Library
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www.MaderaCountyLibrary.org

TEA PARTY cont. from P. 4

from foolproof. But, it is all that is required to verify a legally executed ballot, according to the Secretary of State's website, which states: "In the event ... the technology rejects the signature, the elections official shall ... manually compare the signature.

"The comparison of a signature shall begin with the basic presumption that the signature on the petition or ballot envelope is the voter's signature.

"Exact matches are not required for an elections official to confirm a valid signature."

And the most absurd test for comparison is: "Similar characteristics between a signature being compared and any signature in the voter's registration record are sufficient to determine a signature is valid."

Digest that. All a forger needs to do is make the signature look "similar," and the ballot must be accepted. And the rightful voter's vote is stolen.

Good news! You can track your ballot online. You can sign up at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov to see if your ballot is listed as received. This is an excellent service for those of us who question the convoluted voting process and breathe a sigh of relief upon hearing that our vote has been counted.

Click on "Local News" at

4-H cont. from P. 11

and snack for the meeting. Wow, Sierra Shadows has some amazing hostesses.

Coming up in March is the Madera County Small Animal Expo event. Small Animal Expo is where 4-H members show their goat, chicken, rabbit and other small animals. They identify tools that these animals need, such as a food bowl. Members are tested on identifying the different breeds of their animal. This is really a special event

for those members entering their animals and are able to get a pin for their hat.

A few weeks ago, the Culinary group had their French baking meeting where members made crepes and beignets from scratch. All the members enjoyed this treat and learned some new techniques.

On Feb. 13 we had our club meeting and at the meeting the recreation officer did a hula hoop game to start. Also, the members did a community service project of making Valentine's Day cards for

Valley Children's Hospital, veterans and senior citizens. The vice president, Jamey Crandall, did a presentation on the clarinet. He demonstrated how it sounds by playing a song and showing all the parts of the instrument. The healthy living officers did a presentation on how important it is to eat breakfast. They say to drink no more than four cups of coffee a day and to eat a healthy and nutritious breakfast. We ended our meeting with raffle prizes.

Coming up in May is the Madera County Fair in Chowchilla. The theme of the fair this year is "Let's Stirrup Some Fun." Mark your calendars for the end of the year party on June 11 with dinner and activities. We also have 4-H Camp coming up in July.

Our quote of the day is by President Abraham Lincoln, in honor of President's day. "That some achieve great success is proof to all that others can achieve it as well."




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By Lucie Winborne

- In 2012, a 90-year-old Baltimore woman named Venus Green locked a police officer in her basement when he tried searching her home without a warrant. Afterward, she brought a civil rights lawsuit and won a \$95,000 settlement.
- "Jeopardy!" contestants stand on adjustable platforms so that they all appear to be the same height on camera.
- Chess is a required school subject in Armenia.
- Before the modern glass versions we use today became commonplace, mirrors were made from bronze and were prized possessions of rich households in Egypt, Greece, Rome, China and Japan.
- The Statue of Liberty's full name is Liberty Enlightening the World.
- A study conducted at the University of Montreal showed that young people who played the 1996 game Super Mario 64 for only two months increased their spatial and episodic memory, which improves brain capacity and helps to ward off dementia.
- More than 20% of all the world's freshwater is in the Great Lakes.
- While humans and giraffes obviously have vastly different neck lengths, they still have the exact same number (seven) of neck vertebrae.
- Ever wonder why some cocktails are shaken while others are stirred? Chalk it up to the level of dilution and texture required: The longer the shake or stir, the more diluted and cold the beverage gets. Hence cocktails made with spirits, tonics and bitters should be stirred, while those featuring fruit juices, egg whites, cream or cream-based liqueurs should be shaken.
- Folks used to say "prunes" rather than "cheese" when having their pictures taken.

Thought for the Day: "It is not by muscle, speed or physical dexterity that great things are achieved, but by reflection, force of character and judgment, and in these qualities old age is usually not only not poorer, but is even richer." -- Cicero

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Kiwanis Korner

Limo Winners and Scholarships

By Sally Rowden

Our Valentine's Limo Fundraiser Ride was won by local resident Anna Harr. She is the daughter of Chad and Katie Harr, owners of Chad's Trucking in the Ranchos. I heard they joined her along with her Grandparents, Paul and Marie Cameron, and a few others for a ride to Ducey's at Bass Lake. Chad's Trucking is a family owned and operated local business for over 20 years. Congratulations Anna. I'm sure you all enjoyed it.

The John Minney-Liberty High School Scholarship Fundraiser is underway. Letters went out at the end of January. This year we added our Venmo QR Code for your convenience. One hundred percent of all proceeds go to the students. You can also find the scholarship fundraiser information on Facebook, Instagram and What's Up in the Ranchos? We want to encourage Liberty High School graduating seniors to seek out a scholarship application by contacting Ms. Stephanie Melvin, Academic Counselor, Grades 11-12 at the high school. Reach out to Sally Rowden at rowdensally2@gmail.com for general questions.

Kiwanis Valentine's Fundraiser Limo Ride was won by Anna Harr, fourth from left, and the whole family was on hand to take a ride up to Ducey's at Bass Lake. From left is Chad Harr, Wyatt Harr, Marie Cameron, Anna Harr, Daisy Harr, Katie Harr and Paul Cameron.

I hope you're purchasing your tickets for the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed being held Friday, Mar. 1. As many of you know, the Kiwanians are the servers for the evening and the generous tips folks give support our student fundraisers. So come on out, bring your butter warmers for crab dipping, your competitive spirits for the silent and live auctions, and your festive laughter for an entertaining evening.

A correction on our meeting times and dates. Our meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. They are held at 6 p.m. at Second Son Brews at 37167 Ave. 12, Suite 4C. If you have an interest in attending a meeting and/or being a presenter, please contact our president, Richard Wayne at richardwayne48@gmail.com

You'll see I've included our Venmo QR Code in this article for any donations you might want to give toward the John Minney Liberty High School Scholarship Fund or if you forget to tip us at the Crab Feed, you still have a chance to do so.

The quote for the month: "What could we accomplish if we knew we could not fail?" – Eleanor Roosevelt.

www.RanchosKiwanis.com

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What's Happening
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DECEMBER 2023

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\$471K

Median Days on Market
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Median Sold Price
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Median Price/SF Sold
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GARVEY cont. from P. 3

selves to counter the expansion of hostile foreign powers. More than anything, in order for us to be strong abroad, we must be strong at home. We need leaders in Washington who will make level-headed decisions in the face of a rapidly changing and dangerous world.

Supporting our ally Israel yesterday, today and tomorrow — According to Politico, the Israel-Hamas conflict has emerged as a pivotal issue in this U.S. Senate race, highlighting significant differences in perspectives among the candidates. For me, the stance is clear and unwavering: Israel's right to self-defense is paramount.

This conflict is not just complex; it's about the fundamental security of a nation. I stand firmly in support of Israel and believe that any lasting peace solution hinges on this principle. This is an area where my view diverges sharply from those of my opponents. As your Senator, I would champion strategies that safeguard Israel's security as a non-negotiable priority. The dismantling of terror networks is essential for the stability of the region. In the Senate, I would be a vocal advocate for policies that strengthen Israel's ability to defend itself while seeking pathways toward peaceful coexistence in the Middle East. Our role on the international stage should be to bolster efforts that ensure a secure Israel and a peaceful future for both Israelis and Palestinians. This is not just a foreign policy issue; it's a matter of standing with our allies and upholding our values.

Reforming immigration with sensibility — I visited the border in December and saw first-hand the challenges we are facing. While we were standing feet away from one of the incomplete sections of the border wall in San Diego, a young couple from Venezuela crossed right in front of our group, walked up to us, and started crying because the first half of their journey was concluded. They were quickly approached by border patrol. After being processed for 72 hours, they said they were going to continue to Maine to meet with another family member. We need a balanced approach to immigration. This means we must secure borders, while also respecting the dignity and aspirations of those who come here seeking a better life. We must create a fair and functional immigration system. My plan is to develop practical pathways to citizenship, for those who positively contribute to our society. We need an immigration system that supports our economy and reflects our values as a nation.

Prioritizing water management — Water management is a huge issue for us in

California. We need to get smart about how we use and conserve water. Investing in our water infrastructure and embracing new technologies is key to our future.

I'll advocate for policies that balance our environmental needs with our cities and agricultural water demands. We've got to be proactive in facing the challenges of climate change and population growth. Californians should never be put in a position in which we need to ration water, and we must be prepared for the next drought.

Empowering California's agricultural heartland — Our farmers are fundamental for feeding our country. I'm committed to supporting sustainable agriculture that's both environmentally friendly, economically viable and capable of feeding America's growing population well into the future. My goal is to ensure our farmers have the resources, water, technology and support they need to succeed. It's all about sustainable farming practices that can feed our state and beyond.

Championing environmental stewardship — Protecting our environment is crucial. I'm all in for practical climate action that balances our ecological needs with economic growth. We can lead the way in innovation, technology, and sustainable practices. I'm committed to policies that promote clean energy, reduce emissions and preserve our natural beauty. California should continue to be a global leader in environmental stewardship, and I intend to fight for that in the U.S. Senate.

Elevating our education system — Education is the foundation of our future. Before my career in baseball, I was planning on becoming a teacher.

I'm dedicated to ensuring every Californian has access to a world-class education. Whether it's directing funding to classrooms and teachers rather than into a bloated bureaucracy, or expanding vocational training, we need an education system that prepares our youth for the future. We need to ensure that our students are graduating with the right grade level skills of the 4 R's: reading, writing, arithmetic and reasoning. I'll focus on supporting our schools and teachers, and ensuring our students are ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

Supporting Ukraine against Russian aggression — I stand with Ukraine against Russian aggression. We must continue to support them while seeking diplomatic solutions. American leadership is crucial in this global conflict.

In the Senate, I'd ensure the U.S. plays a constructive role in resolving this conflict, supporting Ukraine's sovereignty, and working towards peace in the region.

Putin cannot be allowed a victory in Ukraine.

Public Input Sought on Traffic

The public is being asked to give its input on unmet transit needs in Madera County. Basically, the County wants you to tell it what your transit needs are and how they're not being satisfied by the County.

The Madera County Transportation Commission, on behalf of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, is inviting residents of Madera County to identify any transit needs that are not being met in the Madera County Region. Conveniently, there are several opportunities for Madera County residents to give their input on transit service needs.

In-person and virtual workshops will be held in various locations throughout the county for residents to learn about the Unmet Transit Needs process and provide comments. This year, workshop locations include North Fork, Chowchilla, Madera and La Vina.

As required by law, a public hearing

will be held at the regular MCTC Policy Board meeting at the Madera County Transportation Commission office at 2001 Howard Rd., Suite 201 in Madera on April 17, 2024, at 3 p.m. However, if residents are unable to attend a workshop or the public hearing, it is easy to participate in the Unmet Transit Needs process in many convenient ways. Options include submitting a comment by phone, mail, email or by filling out an online survey. You can fill out about the online survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/UTN2024MCTC.

You can also mail your comments to: Madera County Transportation Commission, ATTN: Natalia Austin, 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera CA 93637

Participate in the way that is convenient for you. For more information, please visit: www.maderactc.org/bc-transportation/page/unmet-transit-needs



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.

PSALM 146: 5-7 



Detail of "Nervous People at Dinner" by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1916)

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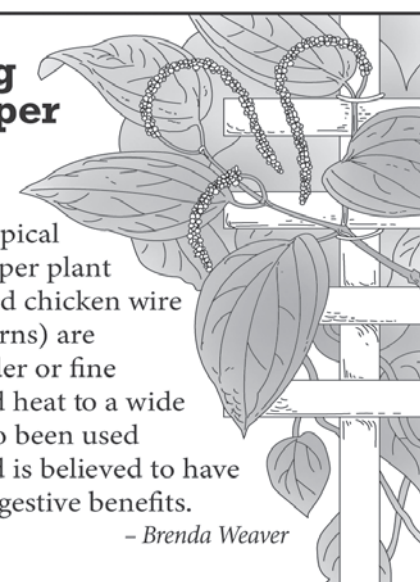


Growing black pepper

This plant is native to South India and is widely cultivated in tropical regions around the world. A black pepper plant needs support such as a trellis or staked chicken wire as they grow. Its fruit (called peppercorns) are collected, dried and ground into powder or fine flakes which are used to add flavor and heat to a wide variety of dishes. Black pepper has also been used medicinally for thousands of years and is believed to have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and digestive benefits.

Sources: balconygardenweb.com, wikipedia

— Brenda Weaver



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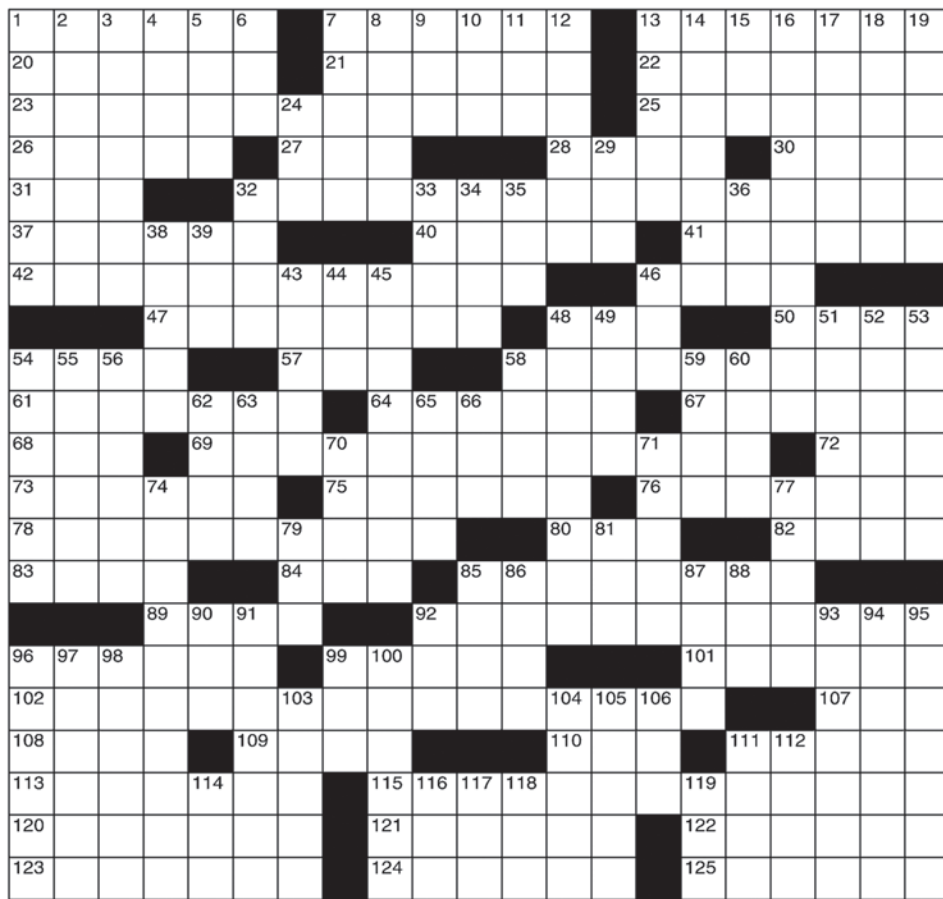


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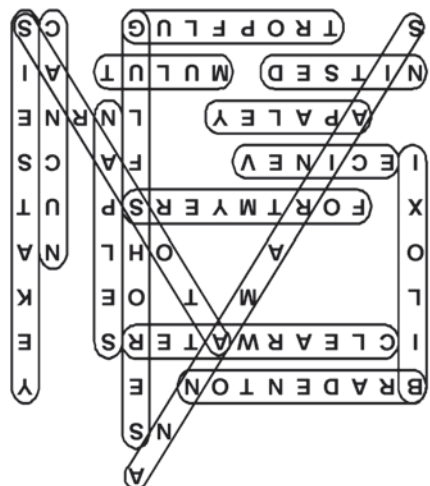
Super Crossword



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NUMBERS

			25		16		30
	20	5	x	1	+	3	
		x		x		x	
	28	2	x	8	+	6	
		-		+		+	
	25	7	-	8	x	4	



2	1	8	5	7	6	9	3	4
5	6	3	4	9	1	7	8	2
9	4	7	2	8	3	5	6	1
3	5	6	7	1	4	2	9	8
7	9	4	3	2	8	6	1	5
8	2	1	9	6	5	3	4	7
6	3	2	8	4	7	1	5	9
1	8	9	6	5	2	4	7	3
4	7	5	1	3	9	8	2	6



- ACROSS**
- 1 Guy in the Beatles' "I Am the Walrus"
 - 7 Brand of bottled water
 - 13 Holy places
 - 20 Yacht basin
 - 21 Old Missouri natives
 - 22 Arranged, as a page for printing
 - 23 2001 Josh Hartnett war film
 - 25 Not macho
 - 26 "— little!" ("Have some fun!")
 - 27 Vegas action
 - 28 Darkens in the sun
 - 30 Hammer, e.g.
 - 31 Yalie
 - 32 1971 Malcolm McDowell crime film
 - 37 They're fed after parking
 - 40 "Energy healing" technique
 - 41 Artist Neiman and Jim Croce's Brown
 - 42 1973 Charlton Heston thriller
 - 46 Beginner, in gaming lingo
 - 47 Use sand-paper on, informally
 - 48 Ed. supporter
 - 50 Brain wave tests, in brief
 - 54 —-Ball (carnival game)
 - 57 Lubbock-to-Laredo dir.
 - 58 1986 Isabella Rossellini neo-noir film
 - 61 WWW page
 - 64 Musical inaptitude
 - 67 Having arrived tardily
 - 68 Choose (to)
 - 69 1984 Gene Wilder romantic comedy
 - 72 "— said before ..."
 - 73 "The Lion in Winter" actor
 - 75 Dawned
 - 76 Certain English student
 - 78 1984 Prince musical film
 - 80 Psychic "gift"
 - 82 Table scraps
 - 83 Graf — (German warship)
 - 84 Potent compound in marijuana: Abbr.
 - 85 Sequence of episodes on the tube
 - 89 Test of speed
 - 92 1986 Molly Ringwald Cinderella story
 - 96 6x9-inch book
 - 99 Attach with cord, e.g.
 - 101 Actor Patrick
 - 102 1992 Wesley Snipes sports film
 - 107 ABA mem.
 - 108 Sol-do linkup
 - 109 Meat spread
 - 110 "Starpeace" singer Yoko
 - 111 — voce (quietly)
 - 113 Smart speaker from Amazon
 - 115 Photos not in shades of gray ... or what eight answers in this puzzle are?
 - 120 Precisely, with "on"
 - 121 Retaliate
 - 122 Czar called "the Great"
 - 123 More impertinent
 - 124 Actor Dick Van —
 - 125 Evaluate
- DOWN**
- 1 Tokens
 - 2 Telescope pioneer
 - 3 Newton topic
 - 4 Rats' relatives
 - 5 Crooner Paul
 - 6 "Prob'ly not"
 - 7 Carpentry rod
 - 8 Invite out for
 - 9 Hardly happy
 - 10 Of yore
 - 11 Unfamiliar
 - 12 Fails to be satisfactory
 - 13 Skulked
 - 14 Sci-fi role for Harrison Ford
 - 15 Cup edge
 - 16 Muckraker who took on Standard Oil
 - 17 "That's all wrong!"
 - 18 Funeral speech
 - 19 Fashion trends
 - 24 Jackson 5 hit
 - 29 Meyers of "Dutch"
 - 32 Comes — surprise
 - 33 Tribe of Canada
 - 34 Piercing
 - 35 Come in first
 - 36 Vintage auto
 - 38 Someone — problem
 - 39 Sleep stage
 - 43 "I fail — the humor"
 - 44 Some sporty autos
 - 45 Orating skill
 - 46 No, in Selkirk
 - 48 Least ornate
 - 49 Zig or zag
 - 51 Major Taiwanese carrier
 - 52 Implies
 - 53 Pub mugs
 - 54 Nosy sorts
 - 55 Sustained
 - 56 Automaker Bugatti
 - 58 Part of N.B.
 - 59 Lead-in to Cong or Minh
 - 60 Lead-in to skeleton
 - 62 "— cost you!"
 - 63 You, quaintly
 - 65 "Sign me up!"
 - 66 Rapper Lil — X
 - 70 Infant's cry
 - 71 Reimburse
 - 74 Surgeries
 - 77 Like sexist jokes
 - 79 Road map abbr.
 - 81 Tennis unit
 - 85 1982 film and arcade game
 - 86 Steam hole
 - 87 Ninny
 - 88 Bump — log
 - 90 Road map abbr.
 - 91 Write music
 - 92 Pod veggie
 - 93 Like Charlie Brown's kite, inevitably
 - 94 Seine users, e.g.
 - 95 Result of a very-low-cart diet
 - 96 Hooting baby birds
 - 97 Latin dance
 - 98 Gives 10%
 - 99 Blast creator
 - 100 Polar topper
 - 103 Diner patron
 - 104 1995-2011 Yankee Posada
 - 105 Release, as from a corral
 - 106 "Excusez—!"
 - 111 Holy Mlles.
 - 112 Excuses
 - 114 "— have to?"
 - 116 Female gametes
 - 117 Allow to
 - 118 Ottawa loc.
 - 119 1040 pro

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• "For nice, evenly sliced mushrooms, use an egg slicer for cutting. It's super-easy to use, since a boiled egg and a nice white mushroom are around the same size. I get good, uniform slices with the slicer." -- P.E. in Colorado

• Try auto polish on tough bathtub stains. There is a little more grit in it than usual bathroom cleaners. Be sure to rinse well, and don't rub too hard, as it may scratch the tub surface.

• "Tissue boxes can be used to hold plastic baggies under the sink in the bathroom. I use grocery-store bags to line my bathroom trash can. I choose a color-coordinated tissue box that has been emptied, and I fill it with the plastic liners, then set it under the toilet tank. It's still nice-looking, even though it's out of the way, and I have baggies at the ready." -- E.R. in Mississippi

• "Return envelopes that come with junk mail can be saved and repurposed at coupon holders/grocery lists. I tuck my weekly coupons inside, and write my list on the back of the envelope, which is usually blank." -- C.G. in Oregon

• To keep track of takeout menus, use a three-prong notebook with an assortment of sheet protectors. Insert the menu into a sheet protector and file away. You can group menus by cuisine or by price.

• Tired of losing matched socks? Purchase a large delicates bag for each family member. Put dirty socks in the personal bag so they cannot be lost.

Send your tips to *Now Here's a Tip*, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	x		-		25
+		+		-	
	+		x		28
x		x		x	
	+		x		20
30		16		25	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8

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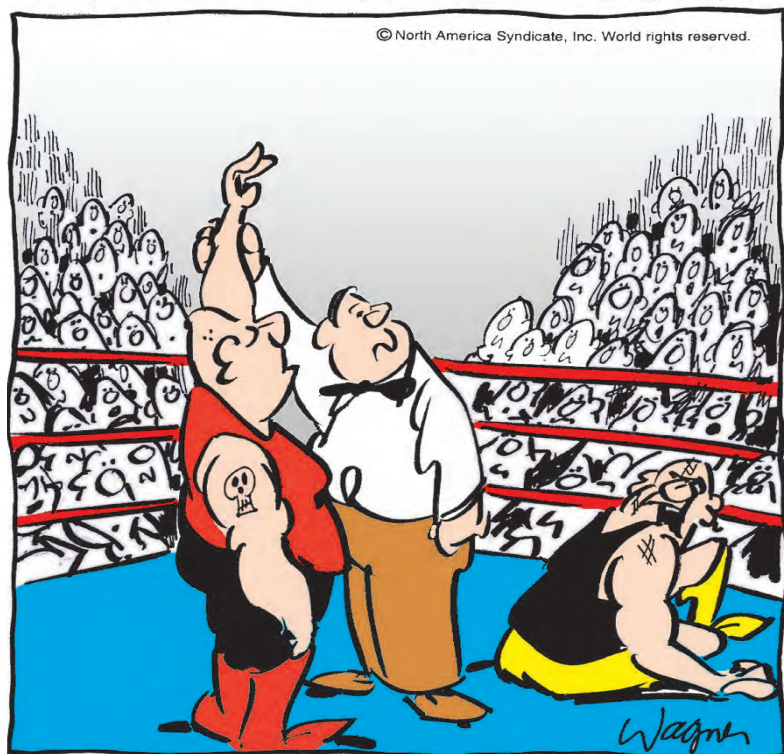
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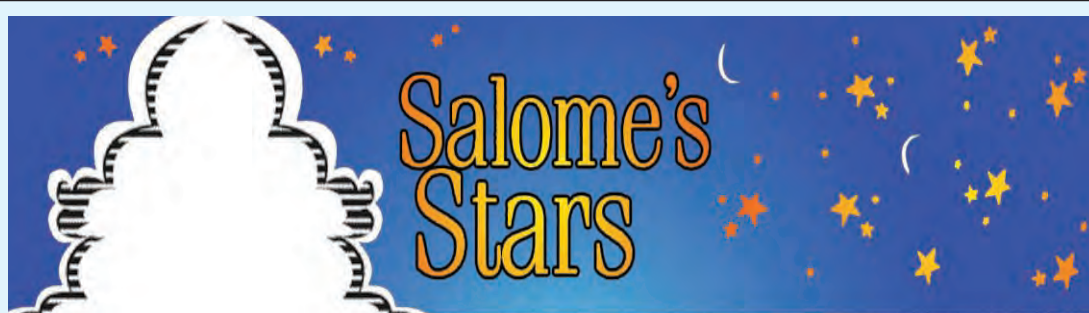
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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



“Excuse me ... I believe that’s MY arm!”

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Taking some time out of your usually busy social life could be just what you need. You can focus on putting some finishing touches on those plans for a possible career change.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A misunderstanding about a colleague's suggestions could create a delay in moving on with your proposal. But by week's end, all the confusing points should finally be cleared up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might feel overwhelmed by all the tasks you suddenly have to take care of. But just say the magic word -- "help!" -- and you'll soon find others rushing to offer much-needed assistance.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Finishing a current project ahead of schedule leaves you free to deal with other upcoming situations, including a possible workplace change or a demanding personal matter.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Turn that fine-tuned feline sensitivity radar up to high to help yourself uncover any facts that could influence a decision you might be preparing to make. Devote the weekend to family activities.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A state of confusion early in the week is soon cleared up with explanations from the responsible parties. Don't waste time chastising anyone. Instead, move forward with your plans.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might feel obligated to help work out a dispute between family members. But this is one of those times when you should just step aside and let them work out their problems on their own.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your ability to resolve an on-the-job problem without leaving too many ruffled feathers earns you kudos from co-workers. You also impress major decision makers at your workplace.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Newly made and long-held friendships merge well, with one possible exception. Take time to listen to the dissenter's explanations. You could learn something important.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Be prepared to be flexible about your current travel plans. Although you don't have to take suggestions, at least consider them from experts in the travel business.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A problem with a recent financial transaction could lead to more problems later on unless you resolve it immediately. Get all the proof you need to support your position.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Daydreaming makes it difficult to stay focused on what you need to do. But reality sets in by midweek, and you manage to get everything done in time for a relaxing weekend.

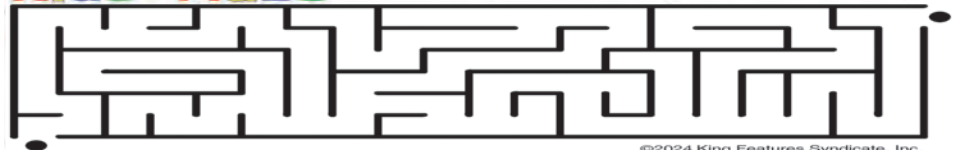
Born this Week

Your ability to reach out to those in need of spiritual comfort makes you a much-revered and much-loved person within your community.

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FUN PAGES

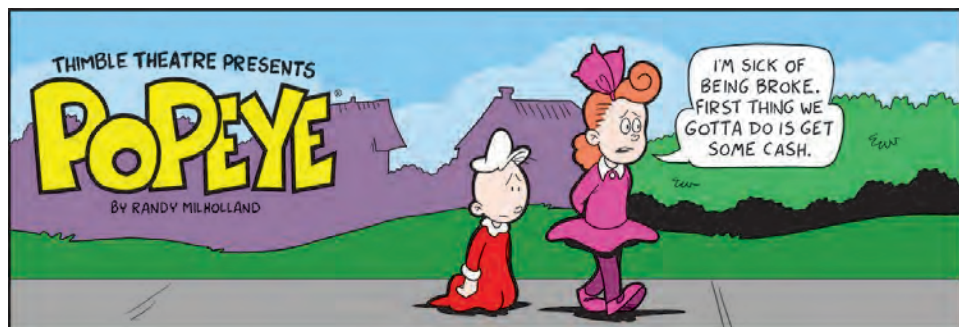
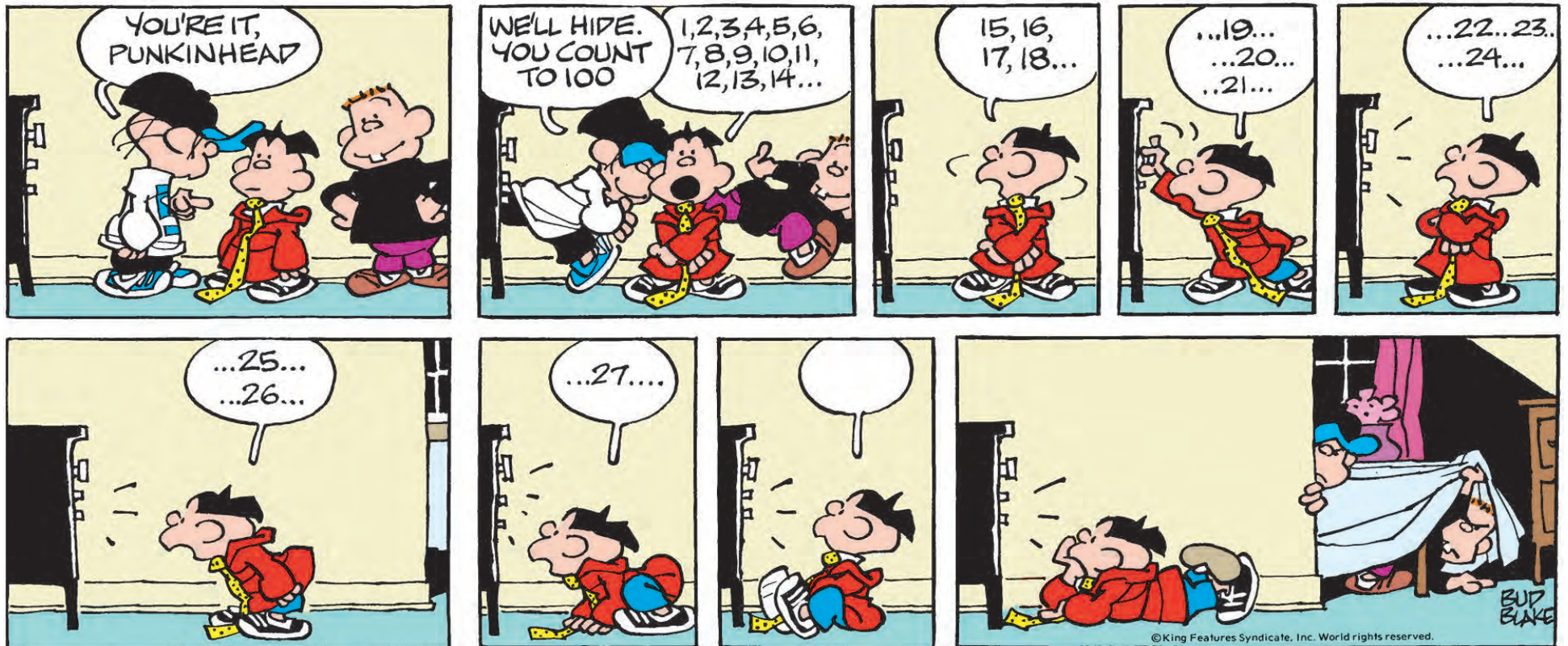
Kids' Maze



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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



TRIVIA TEST

By Fiji Rodriguez

- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a beaver's home called?
- U.S. STATES:** In which state would you find Crater Lake?
- TELEVISION:** Which animated cartoon character says, "What's up, Doc?"
- LITERATURE:** Who is the author of "The Exorcist"?
- MATH:** In Roman numerals, what is XVIII times V?
- ANATOMY:** How many vertebrae are in the human spine?
- GEOGRAPHY:** Which nation is home to Europe's largest glacier?
- MOVIES:** In which film does Doris Day sing "Que Sera, Sera"?
- SCIENCE:** What is anemophily?
- MUSIC:** Who sang the hit "Girls Just Want to Have Fun"?

- A lodge.
- Oregon.
- Bugs Bunny.
- William Peter Blatty.
- XC (90).
- 33.
- Iceland.
- "The Man Who Knew Too Much."
- Pollination by the wind.
- Cyndi Lauper.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



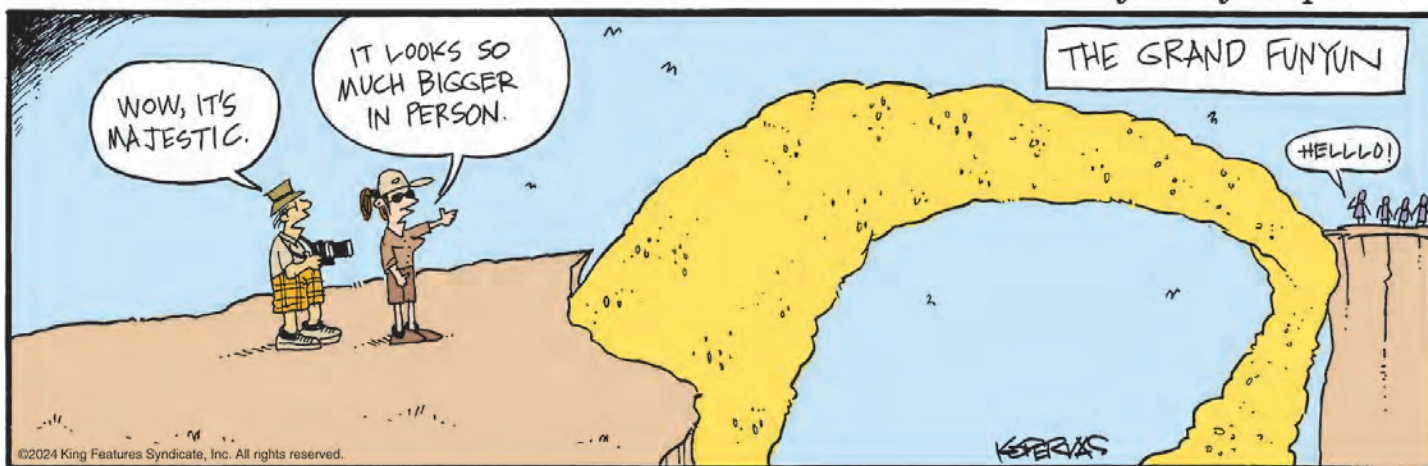
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Newspaper is taller. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Label is missing. 4. File cabinet is taller. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Jacket sleeve is shorter.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4		1			2	
	8		5	4		
	3	2		7		9
		1	6	3		
	9			8	6	1
3			7			8
		7		3	5	
	6		4	9		8
2				6		4

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The Independent

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MAGIC MAZE • GULF COAST BEACHES

J O L J H E C A X V A T R P N
 L J H F D B Y X V N S T R P O
 B R A D E N T O N Y E M K I Y
 I (C L E A R W A T E R) S G E E
 L D B Z X W M I T U O E T R K
 O Q O N L A C J I O H L G N A
 X F F O R T M Y E R S P D U T
 I E C I N E V C A Y F A X C S
 W V A P A L E Y T S L N R N E
 N I T S E D R M U L U T P A I
 S O N T R O P F L U G L K C S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: PANAMA — FL

- Anna Maria Is.
- Biloxi
- Bradenton
- Cancun
- Clearwater
- Destin
- Fort Myers
- Gulf Shores
- Gulfport
- Naples
- Sarasota
- Siesta Key
- Tulum
- Venice
- Yelapa

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FUN PAGES

SEM CU

south east madera county united

The Flatlander's Day Parade & Fair

Is Coming Saturday, May 18

SEM CU will be selling donated items at our Charity Booth during the Flatlanders Day Parade's Fair to raise money for our schools, Senior Center and U.S. Veterans.

DONATE ITEMS and GET A TAX DEDUCTION
make Spring Cleaning PAY while helping our community

IT IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET RID OF STUFF FROM YOUR BACK YARD, GARAGE & CLOSETS • NO ITEM IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL • SINCE SEM CU IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, YOU CAN DEDUCT THE FAIR VALUE OF YOUR DONATION FROM YOUR TAXES • DROP OFF YOUR DONATED ITEMS at VERLAINE'S at 37101 AVENUE 12, MADERA RANCHOS or CALL SEM CU TO ARRANGE for A PICKUP AT 559-363-9095 • EVERY DONOR WILL RECEIVE a FREE RAFFLE TICKET for the FAIR

SEM CU's next meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 6 p.m.
IN PERSON at the Madera Ranchos Library Teleconference Room

You may come by 37398 Berkshire Dr., Madera Ranchos or participate online by going to: WWW.SEMCU.ORG for the link or participate by calling on your phone to 669-900-6833 and enter meeting ID# 836-3242-4343 with access code 854221.

FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

559-363-9095 • www.semcu.org • info@semcu.org